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AUTHORITY OF MILITARY COMMITTEE IN NORTH KOREA

According to Article 2 of the "Decree on the Formation of the Military Committee" issued 26 June 1950, by the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the military assumed all sovereign powers in North Korea. All government, military, political, and social organizations were to adopt "unconditionally" the decisions and instructions of the Military Committee, which at that time was composed of Chairman Kim Il-song and Members Pak Hon-yong, Hong Myong-hui, Kim Ch'aek, Ch'oe Yong-kon, Pak Il-u, and Chong Chun-t'aek.

Another decree called "The Decree on the Wartime Condition" (Chonsi Sangt'ae) issued 27 June 1952, stipulated that the Military Committee was also to control the local military government (chibang kunchongbu), which, according to Article 2 of this decree, was to assume all local governmental functions in the areas where the "Decree on the Wartime Condition" had been proclaimed.

The chairman of "to" (province) or "si" (city) people's committee assumed the chairmanship of this so-called local military government, which was composed of a military representative and a representative from the internal security office. The local military government had the authority to enlist citizens for compulsory labor; requisition quarters and buildings for military use; mobilize or expropriate means of transportation for defense; control working hours; regulate public assemblies and demonstrations; impose curfews; restrict traffic; search or detain suspicious persons; control markets, stores, warehouses, restaurants, public bathhouses, laundry houses, barber shops, and other commercial, industrial, or public establishments; prohibit the entry, or remove from an area where the Wartime Condition had been proclaimed, of any criminals or other undesirable persons.

The local military government was authorized to impose a jail sentence up to 6 months or a fine up to 5,000 won, on any violator of its orders.

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